മിസ്റ്റർ എ. എൽ. ദേവസ്സി *(Commissioner of Police)*.— ഈ പ്രാവശ്യം പറവാൻ നിവൃത്തി ഇല്ല.

Village Vigilance Committees.

181. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruviruthi)*.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) in how many places Village Vigilance Committees have been formed;

(2) do the Government think that these are helpful in the detection of crimes in the villages;

(3) how many cases have been reported by such committees;

(4) do the Government give any tangible encouragement to these committees in case if cases reported by them are easily detected by their active help?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police)*.—

(1) 235.

(2) Yes.

(3) 20.

(4) Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*.—What is the nature of the encouragement given to these Committees?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police)*.—We officially recognise the good work done by them and give them tangible presents.

Protest meeting—Manikandan Al—Trichur—Police arrangements for.

182. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether a public meeting was held at Manikandan Al at Trichur on the 12th Kanni to protest against the action of the Trichur Municipal Council in entering into a contract with the Cochin State Power and Light Corporation to take lights from them;

(2) whether it is a fact that the Police Commissioner, the District Magistrate, the Second Class Magistrate, the District Superintendent of Police and half a dozen Inspectors besides

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a large number of Police force were present at or near the meeting place;

(3) whether the services of the Reserve Police Force were requisitioned and got ready on that day;

(4) if the answers to sub-divisions (2) and (3) are in the affirmative, why did they do all these?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—(1) Yes.

(2) The District Superintendent of Police, Trichur, the local Sub-Magistrate, the Trichur Town and Cusba Inspectors and a few Constables were present.

(3) A few reserve men were also ready.

(4) To preserve peace and order during the meeting and to meet any contingency.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Were there any breaches of peace in any of the previous meetings held at Manikantan Al?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—I cannot recall any instance now.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Were there any breaches of peace in any of the meetings held subsequent to that meeting at Manikantan Al?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—There was no meeting held for the purpose for which this meeting was held and there was no breach of the peace in any of the subsequent meetings.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Was there any breach of peace on the date of this particular meeting?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—There was no breach of peace such as we need take cognisance of.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—What was it that made Government think that there would be a breach of the peace on that day?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—Considering the situation in Trichur it was not out of place to have taken such precautions.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May I know what that extraordinary situation was which necessitated this demonstration on the part of the police?

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Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—The demonstration was not on the part of the police.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—What was the extraordinary situation that arose in Trichur on that particular day which necessitated the precaution being taken?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—The question itself gives the answer to that. "Whether a public meeting was held at Manikantan Al to protest against the action of the Trichur Municipal Council in entering into a contract with the Cochin State Power and Light Corporation to take lights from them". A few agitators were creating a situation for which Government thought that precautions were necessary.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*— Has the Government any idea as to the number of the few agitators?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—It will not be possible to give an exhaustive list of the agitators.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May I know whether the Government has any idea of the respective strength of the imaginary parties or the parties which the Government imagined there were in Trichur?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—If the Hon'ble Member thinks that the parties are imaginary, it is possible to imagine their strength.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—I thought that the Government acted on the basis that there are two parties at Trichur. May I know the comparative strength of the respective parties?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—The information of the Government was that the agitators were not very numerous.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Could not the Government stop these agitators by other means than by demonstration?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—There was no demonstration.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Could they not have taken recourse to other means to stop the agitators than by the posting of police constables?

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Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—Any step taken would have been precautionary.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May I know what was the nature of the agitation that was carried on there?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—I have already answered the question.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Has the agitation ever taken the shape of any violence or any illegal action of an unlawful nature?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—There was reason to think that the tendency was in that direction.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May I know what those reasons are?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—No purpose will be served by revealing them.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Is it because that there was no reason worth noting? Was this incident made use of by the Government in passing a gagging order subsequently against the public of Trichur from holding meetings in connection with the Trichur Electric Corporation?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—Posting of constables was not a ground for any prohibitary order.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—I mean the incident that took place on that particular day?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—I do not understand the incident referred to.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—The incident was the meeting that took place on that day.

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—That might have been one of the considerations.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*—Were there other considerations for getting an order like that from the District Magistrate?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—The meeting was only an indication of the situation in Trichur.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—Was the incident, Sir, so very grave and serious a thing as to provoke such a violent inroad into the civil liberties of so many responsible citizens in the State?

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Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—No inroad was made.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—Is not a gagging order an inroad? Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the desirability of withdrawing their gagging order or at least not extend it a third time?

Mr. A. L. Devassy *(Commissioner of Police).*—It all depends upon the situation.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Are the Government aware of a fairly strong feeling in the public mind of the country that the Government are taking sides in the matter, that the Diwan is taking sides in the matter with the help of the Police and showing undue tenderness towards a foreign concern?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—Sir, I must strongly repudiate the insinuation contained in the question against the person of the Diwan. I refuse to accept the assumptions contained in the question of the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur. They are as ill-founded as they are unjustified. The District Magistrate had grounds to apprehend that a situation might arise which was likely to disturb public peace and tranquillity, and so the ordinary machinery provided by law to avert such a situation was set in motion. Nothing more has happened.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ *(Ezhuvas North).*— തൃശൂർ പട്ടണത്തിൽ വൈദ്യുതീകരണ വിഷയത്തിൽ അനുകൂലമായും പ്രതികൂലമായും രണ്ടു കക്ഷികൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനറിയാമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. എൽ. ദേവസ്സി *(Commissioner of Police).*— വൈദ്യുതീകരണം വേണ്ട എന്ന് പറയുന്ന കക്ഷി ഉണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—May I know whether the Hon'ble Member has got any strong evidence that the Diwan is taking a personal interest in the matter?

Mr. A. Sankara Menon *(Trippunithura).*—I think the question is out of order, Sir.

Drainage and Sewage—Mattancheri—Improvement of.

183. **Mr. Shabdai S. Koder** *(Jews-Special).*—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

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